

GARDEN ROAD E.S.S.

OCTOBER 2011



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DATES TO REMEMBER...

~October 31st... children may wear Halloween "Spirit" clothes to ESS (no costumes). Have a safe Halloween!

~November 6TH...Daylight Savings Time Ends-remind your child it will get dark earlier

~November 11th...School & ESS Closed for Veteran's Day

~November 14-18...Parent Conferences week (early dismissal)

~November 21-25...School & ESS Closed for Thanksgiving

FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

- Notify ESS Staff if there are any changes in your emergency contact information. Please read attached letter from Johnen Gregg (PUSD ESS Director)
- Label backpacks, lunch boxes, jackets & sweaters, etc.
- No toys from home (except on special occasions-ESS Staff will notify you).
- Please let us know if your child will be absent in the afternoon (phone, email, note).
- Please encourage your child to clean out their cubbie daily.
- Please check your Family Folder daily.
- ESS Closes promptly @ 6pm. We appreciate your consideration that the ESS staff may have school, family & personal obligations after their work day.
- Sign in/out sheets are "official" records. Please put the accurate time and your child may not sign themselves out. See Mary or Niki if you have questions.

PARENT CONFERENCE WEEK

November 14-18

Pepp Class will be on regular schedule (8-11:20am)
K-5 will be on an early dismissal schedule (8-11:45am)

Families with full time contracts have these hours included in their Nov. fees. PM Contracts do not include these additional hours. The extra fees for the week are \$32.00 for the first child and \$28.80 for siblings. Please confirm your child's attendance on the clipboard located on the sign in/out counter by Tuesday 10/11.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT HOMEWORK...

Thank you for turning in a homework contract if your child is in 2-5 grade (Pepp, K & 1st have a reading period-contact us if you need to discuss). I have attached a copy of the contract if you haven't had a chance to get yours in. Although we are unable to offer 1:1 tutoring, we make every effort to assist your child as much as possible. Children needing additional time can start early or continue working after our designated Homework period. Please check your child's work each evening and let us know if they are not completing it neatly and accurately. We will monitor them more closely to correct this.

A Note from Johneen Gregg

September 2011

Dear ESS Families ~

Thank you for letting your children join us for another school year. It is a pleasure to see those bright smiling faces as they come in the door, knowing you are entrusting us with your most prized possession. It is always great to ask a child what was the favorite part of the day and hear them say "ESS"!

We are now serving approximately 3200 students and so it keeps everyone on their toes as we strive to offer the best possible program for our children and families. I have to give a huge shoutout to the Supervisors and Lead Assistants who not only lead and manage, but also welcome, nurture, supervise, teach, and mend - children, staff, and even parents. They give their all to make sure your children are safe and happy during their time with us!

As we move forward there are always new opportunities and challenges for us in our quest to improve our program and our practices. We are now in the process of looking at professional development that can be offered for staff this year either through in-house sessions, webinars and conferences. ESS is also moving more and more toward that linkage with the school day, so as children transition into our program we are keeping strong communication with the school site for greater student success.

Always learning of course - the blackout was a good opportunity for us to review our practices when it came to an emergency situation. We are most grateful that it was an emergency and not a disaster but it taught us to cover all of our bases. Each ESS site handled it very well and also applauded the calm demeanor of the children. We are in the process of working with the district as we look at the different scenarios to see where we need the most support. Each site received a crank radio/flashlight to increase the ability to access information, and we are continuing to re-evaluate. My request to our families is to put someone on your emergency card. I know many of you say you do not know of anyone or do not want someone else picking up your child.....however, in case of an emergency or disaster, the worse alternative is that if you cannot get there your child might need to be transported somewhere else. Put a neighbor or an acquaintance on the card, knowing that the likelihood is very small, but necessary. I will be asking Supervisors to go through their emergency cards and anyone that does not have another person listed will be contacted to add someone.

We will continue to work closely with our families, knowing that strong communication and teamwork is always in the best interest of our children. We welcome your input, so please feel free to contact me at jgregg@powayusd.com or 858-521-2850 with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you again for sharing your children with us!